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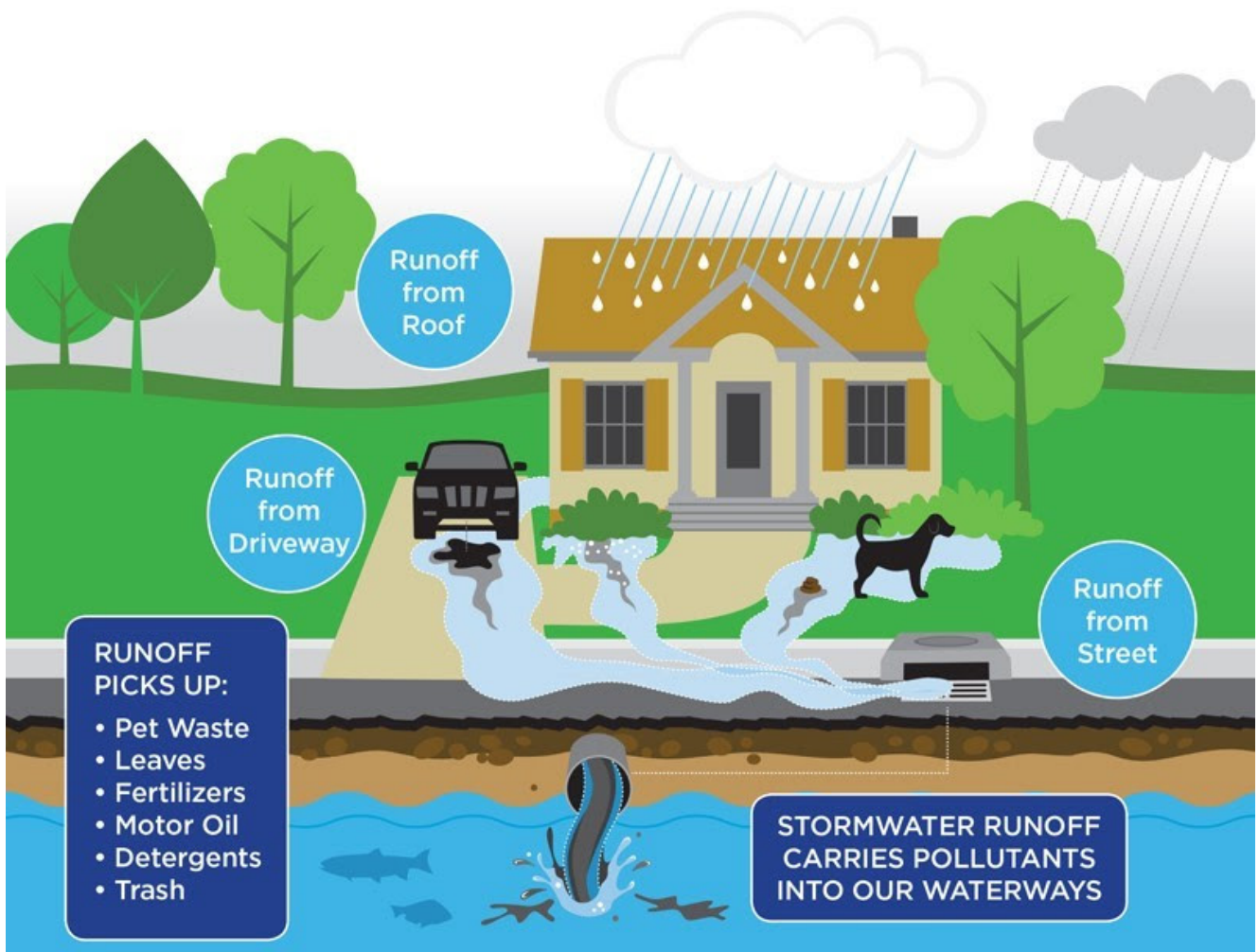
Where does the rain go?

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Tue, Oct 8, 2019 at 1:33 PM

NATICK SUSTAINABILITY NEWSLETTER





Picture credit: City of Richmond, VA

Hi neighbor,

I spent the morning working with my favorite GIS Coordinator, Rich Ames, to make a [cool new App for you](#)! It's all about stormwater (don't yawn!), which is important because **stormwater is clean water's biggest nemesis**.

What is stormwater? It's the rainfall that does not soak into the ground, but instead flows into Dug Pond, Lake Cochituate, the Charles River and the other water bodies we swim, fish and kayak in. That's right - the water that hits your driveway or runs off your lawn is being piped, untreated, into a local water body. ([Enter your address to find your catch basins and see which water body your property drains to here.](#))



Stormwater occurs naturally, but, **as Natick's built environment (rooftops, roads and parking lots) increases and natural space decreases, runoff can cause erosion, flooding, water pollution and other negative impacts.** Impacts like the [algae](#) blooming in Lake Cochituate right now (excess nutrients from fertilizer and pet waste are common in stormwater, and when these are paired with warm water, low flow and sunlight, they can contribute to increased algae and aquatic growth).

Natick's current By-Law doesn't regulate the majority of development for stormwater, and changing it requires a vote by Town Meeting. To achieve that, the Selectmen have sponsored Article 19 on the current warrant for Town Meeting, and the Finance Committee voted unanimously to recommend it. The Conservation Commission and Sustainability Committee also support it. I encourage you to **ask your Town Meeting Member how they plan to vote on Article 19.**

Of course, stormwater doesn't begin or end with development. Better regulations will help, but **we all need to be mindful of our impacts**. Keep reading for a list of ten simple things you can do to keep Dug Pond and all of Natick's waters clean and healthy - **and for the latest updates on all things climate in Natick**.

Thanks for your help!

- Jillian

New EV Charging Stations



New Cole Center Charging Station - Opening soon!

Transitioning to electric vehicles (EVs) is expected to play an important role in Natick's Net Zero Plan, and the Town is already in the process of adding EV

charging stations to municipal parking lots. Four are being installed this fall at: the Cole Recreation Center, JJ Lane, East School (at the intersection of Oak St and Rte 9, where the new playground will be) and at the high school's "Senior lot" (between Dug Pond and the football field).

These new Level II stations can add 10-25 miles of range in one hour of charging, and will be available to EV drivers for day-time charging. The new stations are paid for, in part, by a grant from the [Eversource EV Make Ready](#) program and require customers to pay for the electricity they use. The Town also has three older model EV stations that are available for free charging at the Community Senior Center, Police/Fire Station and Pond St lots.

To find a public or private charging station near you, check out: <https://www.plugshare.com/>

It's Getting Hot in Here



Is it hot in here? If it's January and you are inside Johnson Elementary School, the answer is probably yes. For the past few years, the school has been using nearly the same amount of natural gas as Lilja Elementary, despite being about half the size.

The good news is we are doing something about it! The [MA Dept of Energy Resources recently awarded Natick with funding](#) to help retro commission and repair Johnson's unit ventilators, and to upgrade the lighting at the Community Senior Center and Fire HQ to LED fixtures.

In total, these projects are expected to reduce Natick's energy costs by \$30K each year. Yippie!

Super Fun Sustainability Events



Local environmental groups in Natick are hosting some great events this month and next. I hope to see you there!

- **Oct 8: (tonight!): Sustainability Committee Meeting**, 7:30pm at DPW
- **Oct 9 (tomorrow night!): Backyard Composting 101**, 7pm
at Community Senior Center
- **Oct 17: Green New Deal Town Hall**, 7pm at Common St Spiritual Center - [RSVP here](#)
- **Oct 19: Fair & Yeager Shred-a-thon**, free event from 9am-12pm at Town Hall parking lot

- **Oct 30: Earth Day Planning Team**, 7pm, 2nd Floor Meeting Room at Town Hall
 - **Nov 12: Compost Conversation**, with a talk from Black Earth Compost's founder, 7-8:30pm at Morse Institute Library - [RSVP here](#)
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Message from Black Earth

Are you putting the right things in your curbside compost bin? Black Earth Compost recently sent its Natick members an email with an [updated list clarifying what can/can't go in your bin](#).

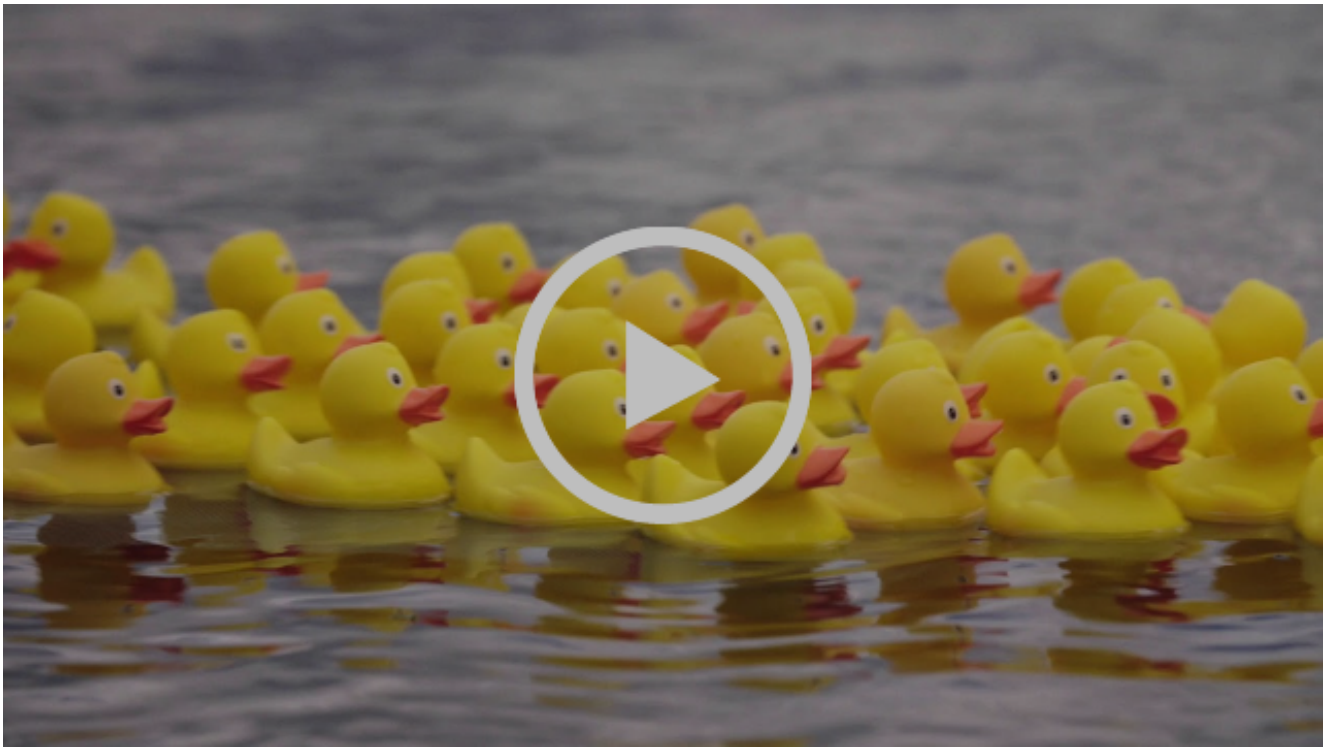
Be sure to check out the full list, but if you are looking for quick ways to clean up your act, Black Earth says the following items are the most common offenders:

Hey girl

Please keep these out
of your compost bin:

- Ice Cream Containers
- Coffee Cups
- Magazines and Circulars

10 Things You Can Do



Here are ten simple things you can do to limit your contribution to stormwater pollution (inspired by thinkbluemassachusetts.org and cleanwatercampaign.org):

1. Never dump anything onto the street or down a storm drain.
2. Pick up pet waste. Bag it and throw it in the trash.
3. Compost or bring your grass clippings and yard waste to the Recycling Center.
4. Use fertilizers and pesticides sparingly.
5. Pick up litter.
6. [Install a rain barrel! We sell them for \\$70 at the DPW.](#)
7. Check your vehicles for leaks and repair them as soon as possible.
8. Always recycle your motor oil and other vehicle fluids.
9. Wash your car over a grassy area or at a commercial car wash that recycles water, not on your driveway.
10. Tell a friend or neighbor how they can help prevent stormwater pollution.

Want to do more?

We are looking for volunteers to help coordinate the annual Earth Day festival (scheduled for April 26, 2020). Please email me at jwmartin@natickma.org if you are interested. You are also invited to attend our next planning meeting on October 30 (see above for detail).

Everyone is also welcome to attend the Sustainability Committee's monthly meeting. We are meeting tonight at the DPW at 7:30pm and usually meet on the first Tuesday of the month.

Share this newsletter!

Invite all the cool people in your life to get this newsletter via the following link: <http://eepurl.com/cwasAL>.

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